

Emergency Housing Fund Established

By Patti Cunningham

WOMEN IN NEED (WIN) is a philanthropic program of Assistance League® Triangle Area. It is designed to help homeless and other vulnerable women with home cooked meals, personal care items, laundry vouchers, bus tickets and special need items.

A downtown area hotel agreed to partner with our Chapter by accepting vouchers for families to stay overnight in emergency situations. Through this fund, vouchers are provided and distributed at the discretion of Regina Brooks, client services coordinator at the Women's Center of Wake County.

Chapter members prepare, deliver and serve a monthly lunch at the Center to approximately fifty women and some young children. In conjunction with the Triangle Bus Authority, vouchers are purchased to be used by the women at the Center for transportation to job interviews, to the Catholic Parish food pantry, and to Urban Ministries for medical

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Christmas in November with OPERATION SCHOOL BELL®

By Linda Weiner

It feels like Christmas in November when elementary school children receive big, brown shopping bags full of wonderful surprises: a pair of tennis shoes, sweat pants, a sweat shirt, six pair of underwear and socks, a pair of jeans, two T-shirts, personal hygiene products, school supplies and a hand-knitted scarf for the girls. It's wonderful to hear a child say, "Someone loves me enough to make a scarf."

For the ninth year, Assistance League® Triangle Area has sponsored OPERATION SCHOOL BELL®, which provides new clothes, shoes and school supplies to over 700 children in need in the Triangle area. Chapter members spend almost twelve months preparing for this annual project, which involves tasks ranging from soliciting monetary contributions to ordering the clothing and coordinating the large assembly line needed to pack the individual bags for five Wake County schools and four Durham County schools.



Spaulding school coordinator Lisa Richmond (pictured left) directs children through the maze of OSB bags.

Each school's guidance counselor chooses their allotted quota of students. Parental consents are returned with correct clothing sizes and children's feet are measured for new shoes. In November, the deliveries begin.

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® began nearly 50 years ago as a one-woman effort to provide clothing to disadvantaged children; it is now the signature national philanthropic program. Today, OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® provides for over 1 million school children through 117 chapters and guilds across the United States with a combined annual budget totaling more than \$9.5 million for this program.

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The President's Message



Spring has arrived with the promise of new life and vitality. Our chapter too, has been and will continue to grow and meet new challenges in our community.

The second half of 2007, we worked very hard to support our philanthropic programs - - helping children in need, women and students in the greater Triangle area.

Scholarship applications are currently being reviewed and some \$14,000 will be awarded to outstanding students in Wake, Durham and Orange counties. These recipients will be recognized at our annual luncheon on May 22nd.

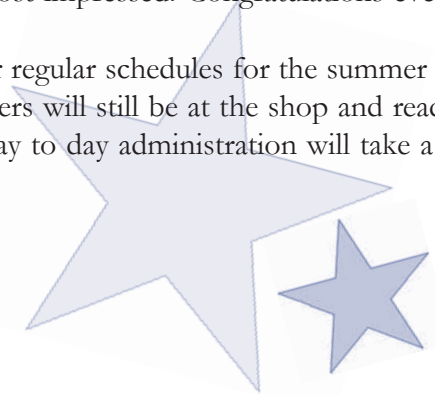
In January, representatives from WakeMed asked if we might consider donating stuffed bears to be given to patients following emergency treatment at KID'S PLACE®. It was an honor to be asked and we have already begun to meet their need with twenty-five hundred bears having been ordered for distribution.

Recently, two representatives from the NATIONAL ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® visited our chapter. Thanks to the efforts of our board, our Advisory Council, our membership and host of other supporters for helping to make the two-day visit a resounding success. Before leaving, they were given a tour of our beautiful Resale Shop and were most impressed. Congratulations everyone!

Soon we will be winding down our regular schedules for the summer months of June and July. While many volunteers will still be at the shop and ready to help at the WIN center, much of the day to day administration will take a leave to rest and renew bodies and spirit.

Sincerely,

Shelley Stirling



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appointments. Laundry vouchers are purchased from Wash-a-Rama. These vouchers are also distributed through the Center.

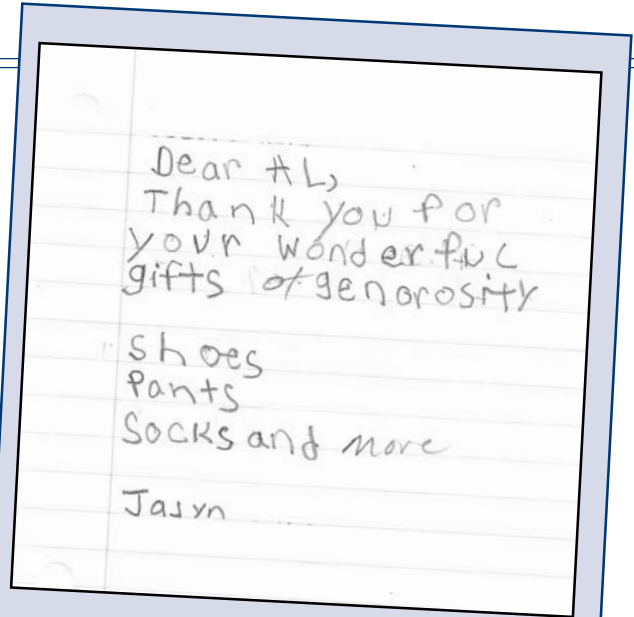
This year, the Chapter provided party decorations and large pasta casseroles for the Center's holiday party. Nineteen gift cards in amounts of \$15 and \$25 were purchased from Walmart for the attendees.



Eddie Stirling and Lin Braggi prepare to serve lunch at the Center.



Adrienne Thomasian (left) and Lula Harris diligently organize hundreds of boxes of shoes for OSB.



A letter of appreciation from one of the students who received items this past fall.

Vendors Help To Reach Goal

Due to the generosity and assistance of the following vendors our OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® goal has been reached: Ed Morrell with **Mortex Apparel Manufacturing** (Mortex Corporation in Wendell, NC) donated t-shirts and fleece items wholesale for Carver and Poe schools, where his grandchildren attend. **Mortex** provided t-shirts and fleece clothing at wholesale prices for the other seven schools. **Andrew Leicht** with **Ultimate Apparel Inc.** in New York works with all the Assistance League chapters nationwide selling wholesale plus shipping. **Office Depot**, manager Abder Allen, donated boxes for our teacher project and offered discounted supplies for the boxes. **Jennifer Reynolds** and **Mike Perry** of **Fruit of the Loom** have been our contract people for several years. Other vendors are **Federated Wholesale, Inc** who work with many of the Assistance Leagues and **Bob Beliak** of **Dollar Days**, which is an online store.

What's It All About...



Ellen Lehman (L to R), Nona Wright, Karen Perry, Shelley Stirling and Linda Weiner at the 2007 holiday party. In lieu of giving gifts to each other, chapter members collect books for KID'S PLACE® annually at the party.



David Stirling (L to R), David Grant, Jim Aldrich, and Mike Perry receive Wonderful Outstanding Man (WOM) Awards for efforts contributed to the chapter.



Becky Aldrich (L to R), Molly Bailey and Margaret Pasquale prepare for a Halloween coffee for prospective members at the Resale Shop.

Meet the Advisory Council



Sharon Delaney
McCloud

Sharon Delaney McCloud is an Emmy Award winning communications professional who brings 18 years of media experience to her clients.

Sharon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication from Florida State University before embarking on a career as a television journalist.

After leaving television news in 2006, Sharon started McCloud Communications LLC. Most recently, Sharon trained several local executives as they prepared for President George W. Bush to visit their facility with the White House press corp.

Sharon was born in Nairobi, Kenya and spent her early years in east Africa attending schools in Kenya and Tanzania before moving to the United States. In addition to her television career, Sharon worked for the Department of Defense's U.S.O. Program and traveled all over the Middle East, Mediterranean and Europe entertaining American troops.

Sharon is very active in the community and serves on a number of Boards of Director and advisory committees for non-profit organizations in North Carolina. Her pride and joy are her family and her church.



Ralph Bartell

Ralph Bartell is the banking community representative on the advisory council. With a Master's Degree in Economics from City University of New York, he joined Citibank and for eight years was responsible for all corporate and commercial lending in Latin America. An additional two years were spent running Citibank's mortgage business, a six billion dollar portfolio. In 1982

he joined a computer software company as senior executive for North and South America.

Retiring in 1993, Ralph and his wife moved to North Carolina, where he has been a volunteer with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) counseling small business owners. He also taught Economics and Business courses at Meredith College, Peace College and Encore (NCSU). This is his second year volunteering with Assistance League® Triangle Area and Habitat for Humanity.

Ralph was critical in the creation of our resale shop. He aided with the development and review of a viable business plan, he used his expertise and contacts to draft, review, negotiate and implement the lease agreement. He contributed many hours of his time following up and monitoring the opening of our shop.

Ralph enjoys woodworking, reading mostly history and traveling.



Established in 1997, Assistance League® Triangle Area is a 501(c) (3) non-profit volunteer organization serving the Triangle Area and is also a chapter of National Assistance League®. With nearly 90 members volunteering over 15,000 hours and no paid staff, the Chapter is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Triangle community through service, resources and financial support. For more information about Assistance League® Triangle Area, contact (919) 235-4554 or visit www.altriangle.org

What's Up at the Shop

By Margaret Pasquale

It has been an exciting and very successful year for the new Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop. Because of the generosity and support of all the Assistance League® volunteer members this new fundraiser is a success for the community.

We look forward to the challenges and successes of our second year of business. The resale shop celebrated its one year anniversary on February 2, 2008. A "Soup and Bread Party" was hosted for members and their guests at the shop on January 29th to kick off our anniversary celebrations and on February 27th we held customer appreciation day.



Congratulations to Shelley Stirling and Molly Bailey for being nominated Resale Shop Volunteer of the Month (VOM). Our thrift shop Volunteer's of the Month are not chosen lightly. These dedicated individuals go above and beyond. These ladies are always filling a shift at the shop when needed and taking on additional responsibilities to make this fundraiser a success. They are

great humanitarians to this community and always serve with a smile on their face. Many thanks to you both for your dedicated volunteer hours behind the scenes and in the resale shop.

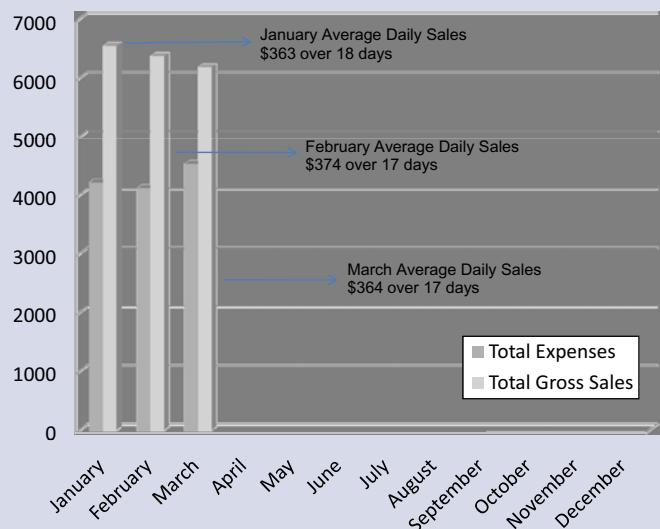
Because of our members, patrons, and retail supporter donations to the resale shop we were able to make profits in 2007. Our profits and success at the resale shop relied strictly on donations and the volunteer hours of our members, their spouses, and other family and friends.

Your donations can be dropped off at the resale shop Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please look for our online ads on Craigslist at <http://raleigh.craigslist.org/>

Thank you...

Our thanks to Adriane Thomasian for her dedication in coordinating the bi-monthly pick up of donated furniture, rugs, and household items. Also our thanks to all the pick up volunteers; David and Sharron Grant, Charles and Barbara Watts, Gary and Janice Carlton, Jim and Becky Aldrich, Jim and Nona Wright, Jim and Barbara Townson, Bill and Johann Hoke, Tom and Pat Gipson, Shelley, David and Andrew Stirling (son), Margaret and Frederick "Tony" Pasquale, Gail and Eric Vaughan and our newest committee member E.L. Shearer. If you would like to volunteer to help pick up household goods, please contact Adriane at the resale shop at (919) 875-8901. Our special thanks to Margaret Cohen and her realty company for allowing us to use the REMAX truck for large pick ups.

Expenses vs. Gross Sales 2008



Antiques to Zippers Resale ~ 1689-A North Market Drive, Raleigh, NC ~ (919) 875-8901

Wonderful Outstanding Women Awards



Callie and Shirley stand by the OSB tree at the Resale Shop.

Shirley Garvey to Callie Underwood

This fairly new member has shown a dedication, despite all odds. She has further to travel than most of us, yet shows up for her hours at the store and has knitted a total of

fifteen scarves for this year's students. She has offered more of her time at home to help the Chapter and I am sure she could be a sign designer for the Resale shop or another project on the computer.

She assisted multiple times with preparations for OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® and brought with her freshly baked banana bread for all to enjoy – this, above and beyond the call of duty.

So my pick for the WOW Award is Callie Underwood. Callie and her husband Scott live in Pittsboro with their one daughter – their “miracle child.” Congratulations, Callie.



Judy Godwin

Margaret Cohen to Judy Godwin

This well deserved recipient of the WOW award is a native North Carolinian. She has been involved in a variety of community service organizations including Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina and Safechild. Her career outside the home has been as a social worker helping children that have been abused as well as troubled adolescents.

We are delighted that she chose to be involved with our organization. She leads our involvement at KID's PLACE® and has been working hard to get the counting book project, written and illustrated by Chapter members, off the ground. She has also volunteered at the WIN center. Her assistance at the A to Z Resale Shop has not gone unnoticed either as a cashier and a fabulous window designer.

I am delighted to pass this WOW award and honor to Judy Godwin.

The objective of the Wonderful Outstanding Woman (WOW) award is to recognize and award to outstanding members of AL who have rendered an extraordinary effort during recent months. Two winners are awarded four times a year. Past award winners select and award the new winners. Criteria for selection could be chairing of fundraiser, hours contributed to service, or giving assistance for special needs.



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